

**THANKS, AL!**

Upon seeing *An Inconvenient Truth*, I have but this to say: Thank you Al! Now it is up to us. Will we meet the challenge?

*Matteo Luccio  
Eugene*

**ACTION, GORDON!**

At the jail vigils for soldier Suzanne Swift, jailed for refusing her second tour in Iraq, we were asked to appeal to our congressmen for help on her behalf. Suzanne was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder caused by the war and the incessant sexual harassment inflicted on her by "all but one of her supervising officers," according to her mother, Sara Rich. Suzanne filed a complaint. The result? The offending sergeant was promptly promoted! He was transferred to fresh pickings in another unit. Interesting message: sexually harass a female soldier and be rewarded with a promotion and fresh, new hunting grounds. No wonder sexual harassment is rampant in the military.

Rep. Defazio's staff tell me the best they can do is to observe the case to monitor that proper legal steps are followed. I've observed that Senator Gordon Smith has commendably channeled his grief over his son's depression and subsequent suicide by writing a book aimed at preventing other suicides. I'm hopeful Senator Smith will act swiftly on behalf of thousands of American soldiers returning from Iraq — such as Suzanne — in the grip of PTSD and depression.

I wouldn't wish PTSD or any of the horrors of war on anyone, including the Bush twins — but it's unlikely the children of the powerful and elite will ever be exposed to the psychological mayhem, blindings, limbs blown off or deaths suffered by the less privileged such as Suzanne. Suzanne is among many thousands of soldiers who became soldiers due to diminished economic resources, cattle fodder enriching Veep Cheney's Halliburton pals and George W. Bush's oil cronies.

Bring Suzanne home. She has suffered much from the war and many months of sexual tauntings and coercion. Enough.

*Carol Berg Caldwell  
Eugene*

**DOSE OF REALITY**

I want to thank Don Woolley for his honesty and the basic lesson in market mechanics. His perspective is one that reflects reality, and reality is a concept that many groups and individuals in Eugene need to familiarize themselves with. The 'market' is a system with plenty of room for charitable, benevolent, socially just objectives. If one is truly interested in being part of the solution, then learn how the market economy works and how to use it. Businesspeople like Don Woolley will be part of the solution, and con-

sidering the status quo, Eugene should be grateful that folks like him care to do business here at all. Why? Because as Mr. Woolley accurately described, Eugene has fallen off the map. Some areas adjacent to Eugene are growing, but this nearby progress has little or no impact on downtown Eugene itself. Ask yourself why companies like Symantec have abandoned downtown Eugene and how such a mass migration to a nearby suburban campus could have been avoided. Downtown Eugene must be the kind of place that attracts and retains jobs, not a place that repels them.

The bottom line is that Eugene and other small cities (and nearby suburbs) are competing with one another, and Eugene is losing. The first step towards reversing this trend would be to learn the rules of the game - learn how the market operates. Every participant in any serious discussion concerning downtown Eugene should be required to justify their ideas with sound economic planning; otherwise they should be locked out of the room for the sake of progress. In the real world, having dreams and an opinion isn't enough to get the job done. Need evidence of this fact? Look no further than Broadway.

*Mike Powers  
Vida*

**DEW A GOODER JOB**

I's jest wanta thank dat Mistash woolie for comin round 2 splaining howse come dat bildins ben setting all mt like fur awl dese yars. I's ben mini de times dat i fetched awful bout awl dem peeples dat yoused 2 wurk up en thair an nows i seed howse dey jest kept gittin dummer an dummer 2 wair dey jest coot knot pic up de fones or peck et de kumpooters know mor an dey jes had 2 cloze up an go bak 2 setting on street korners wit sines.

I's hopes dat sumbody wil be shore 2 git wit de peeples at de coleges an tel dem dese peeples keep comin out 2 dum 2 keep de bildins opun know mor an wood u pleez start up to dew a gooder job. If'n I's evah gits ejuccated liken Mistah woolie I'm gonna larn howse 2 leeve bildins settin mt an big holes en da groun fer da peeples 2.

*Martin E. Williams  
Eugene*

**HOSPITAL CRISIS**

The Eugene Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing this week on Triad's applications for amendments to the Metro Plan and Willakenzie Area Refinement Plan and zone change for the property on which Triad wants to site its new hospital. The Metro Plan amendment also affects the City of Springfield and Lane County. A zone change to commercial on property that sits in a strictly residential neighborhood will be drastic.

These hearings at City Hall, and the sub-